

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
aHD256
.D383
1981

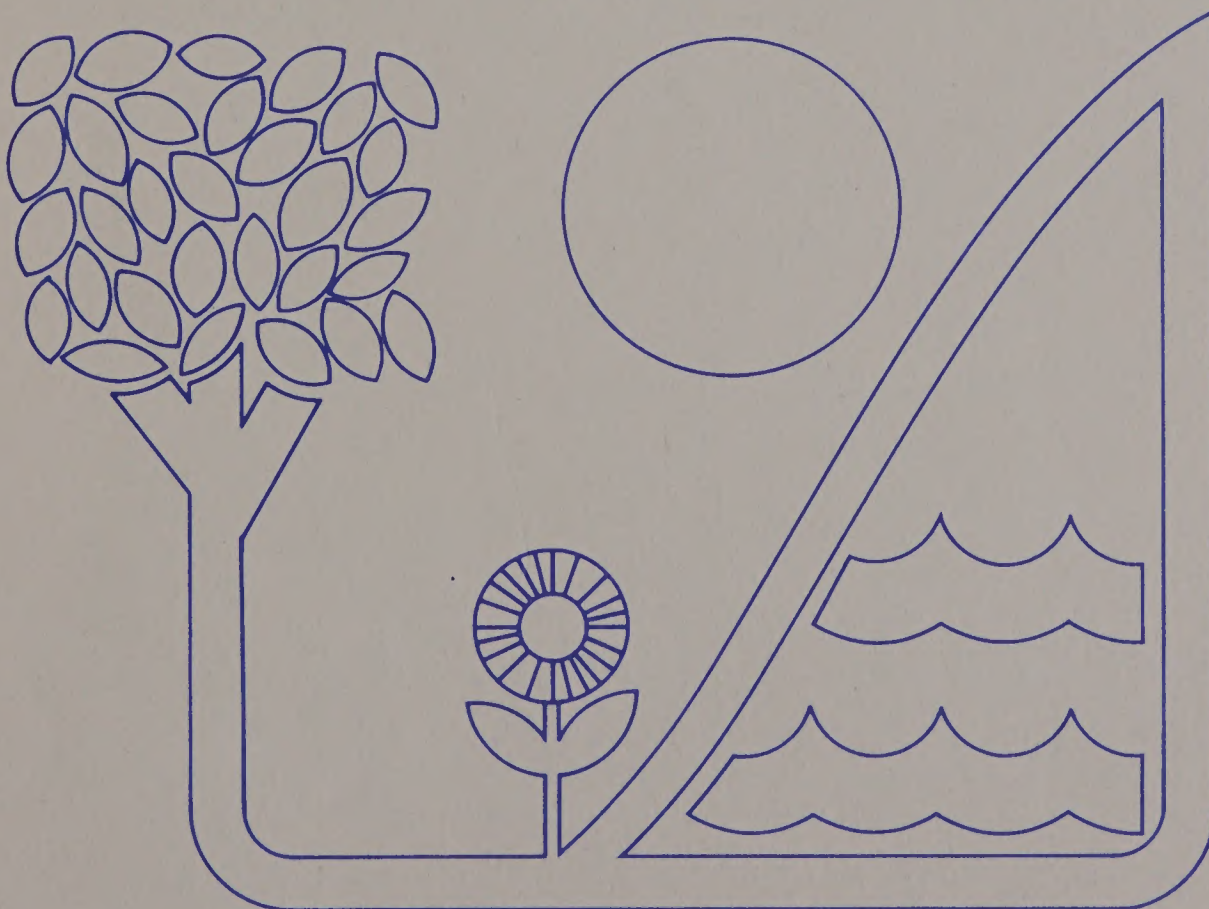
STAFF REPORT

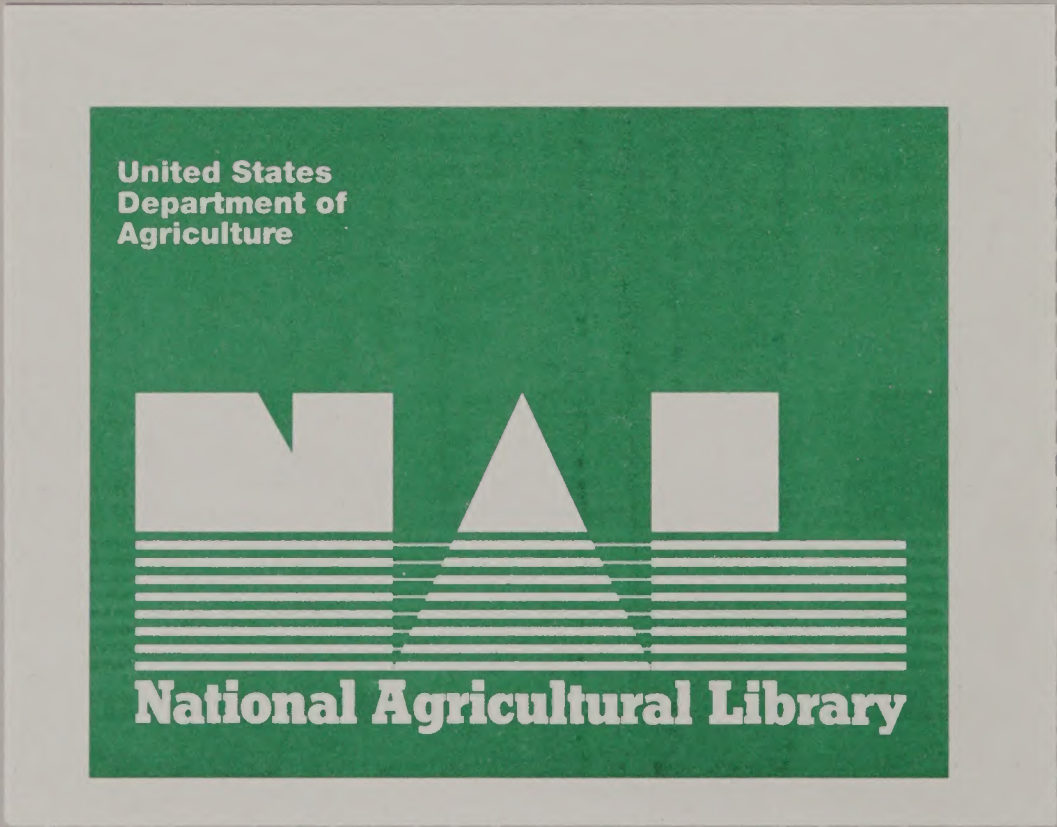
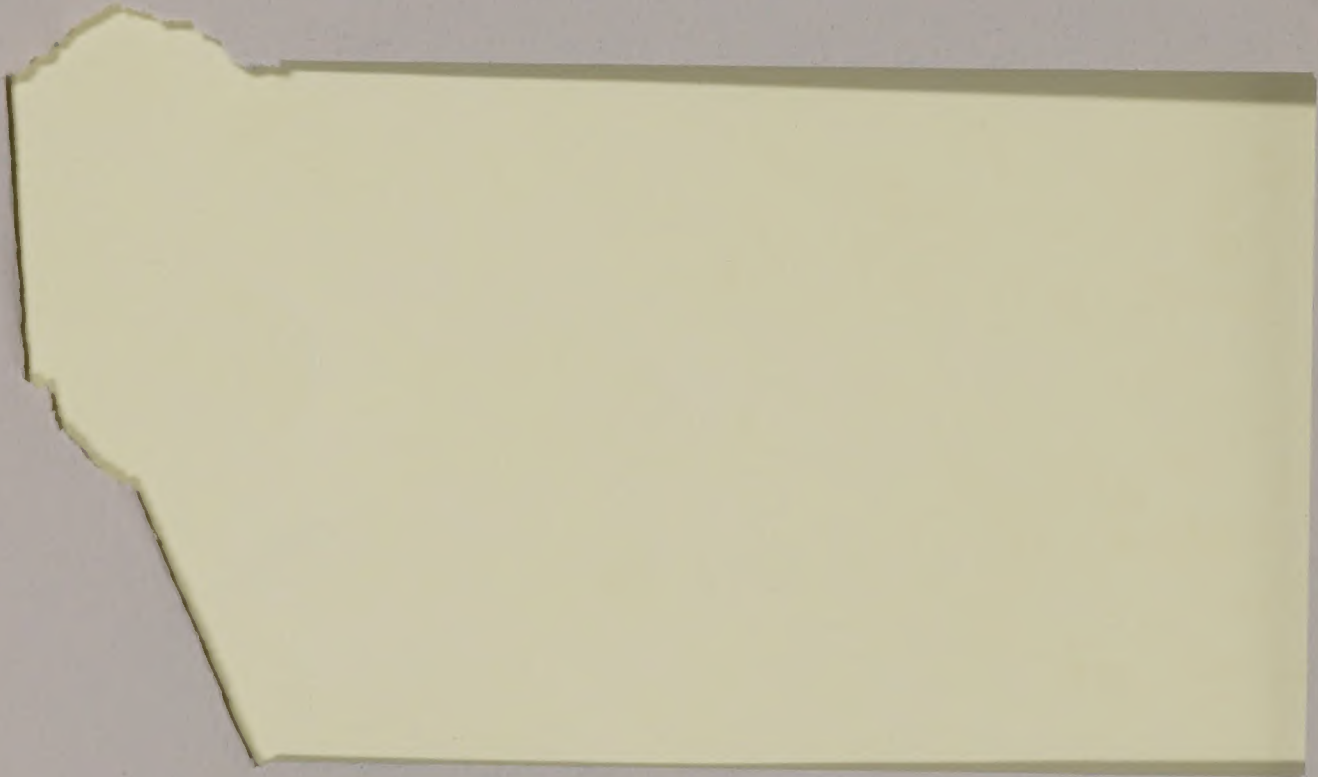


NRE

Economics,
Statistics, and
Cooperatives
Service

United States
Department
of
Agriculture





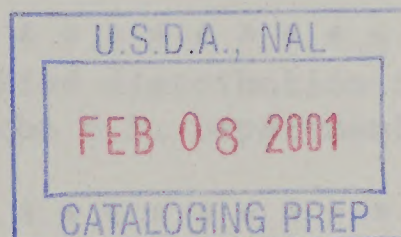
LAND REMOVED FROM CROP PRODUCTION, 1975-77--A REPORT ON A LANDOWNERSHIP FOLLOW-ON SURVEY. By Arthur B. Daugherty; Natural Resource Economics Division, Economics and Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; ESS Staff Paper No. AGESS810211. February 1981.

LAND REMOVED FROM CROP PRODUCTION,
1975-77--A REPORT ON A LANDOWNERSHIP

FOLLOW-ON SURVEY

ESS STAFF PAPER NO. AGESS810211

Arthur B. Daugherty



Natural Resource Economics Division
Economics and Statistics Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

February 1981

LAND REMOVED FROM CROP PRODUCTION, 1975-77--A report on a Land-ownership Follow-on Survey. By Arthur B. Daugherty; Natural Resource Economics Division; Economics and Statistics Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, D.C. 20250; ESS Staff Report No. AGESS810211. February 1981.

ABSTRACT

An estimated 2.8 million acres were removed from crop production by more than 78,000 landowners during the 1975-77 period. Two-thirds of the land removed from crops had been in production more than 10 years. Health or age of the owner was the principal reason given for the changed land use. Hay, wheat and corn, respectively comprised the largest acreages of land removed from cropland. Nearly half the land taken out of crops during the 1975-77 period was in pasture or range in 1978. An additional third was reported as idle.

Key Words: Cropland, land utilization, landowners, acreage, land improvement, decision-making.

* * * * *

* This paper was prepared for limited distribution to *

* the research community outside the U.S. Department of *

* Agriculture. *

* * * * *

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
The Follow-on Survey	2
Survey Highlights	7
Tabular Data from the Survey	11
Appendix 1. Cropland Acreage Reduction Survey	
Questionnaire	18

LAND REMOVED FROM CROP PRODUCTION, 1975-77
A report on a Landownership Follow-on Survey

INTRODUCTION

This report is based on a portion of the Resource Economics Survey, a 1978 survey of landowners in the United States, conducted by the Natural Resource Economics Division (NRED) of the Economics and Statistics Service (ESS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Resource Economics Survey was comprised of a 12-part package to collect inter-related data on and about land resources.

The first part of the package, the Soil Conservation Service's 1977 National Resource Inventory, provided data on the use and quality of the land. The second part of the package, the 1978 Landownership Survey, provided information on landowners--what, where, and who they are. The results of this landownership survey have been summarized by James A. Lewis.^{1/}

The 1978 Landownership Survey (LOS) also contained a series of questions concerning land transactions, capital expenditures, land use changes and other land management practices. These questions were used as screening questions to identify prospective respondents for a series of 10 follow-on questionnaires. These 10 follow-on questionnaires--each sent to a subsample of the respondents to the LOS--complete the 12-part Resource Economics Survey. In addition to this Cropland Acreage Reduction follow-on survey, the others included: 1) Additions to

^{1/}James A. Lewis, LANDOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES, 1978, Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 435. Natural Resource Economics Division; Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, D.C., April 1980.

Cropland; 2) Land Purchases and Acquisitions; 3) Land Sales and Transfer; 4) Land Clearing Investment; 5) Drainage Investment; 6) Investment in Conservation Structures; 7) Changes in Conservation Practices (conservation disinvestments); 8) Irrigation Investment; and 9) Irrigation Disinvestment.

Screening questions on the LOS determined if a landowner had a particular activity during 1975, 1976, or 1977. By using the screening questions on the main survey, the maximum amount of data was obtained with the shortest questionnaire possible and only those respondents that reported a particular activity were surveyed for that activity in the Landownership Follow-on Surveys. The 1975-77 time period was selected as the longest time period for which accurate information could likely be obtained. More than one year was used in order to obtain more observations of a particular activity and improve the reliability of estimates of the activity surveyed.

The data presented in this report provide information reported by landowners on the past, present (1978), and planned (1980) uses of land removed from cropland in the 48 conterminous States during the 1975-77 period. The data also provide information on the factors considered important by the owner in the decision to change the land use; the time period when the land was acquired and during which it was used as cropland; and improvements on the land associated with the cropland use.

THE FOLLOW-ON SURVEY

The adequacy of the Nation's supply of agricultural land to meet future demands for agricultural production is an issue of growing

concern. As the landowner is the ultimate decision-maker regarding the use of the land he owns, information was needed on land removed from crop production which could be analyzed in conjunction with the characteristics of landowners from the LOS. Such analyses should provide information useful in developing land use policies to encourage socially desirable land use objectives. This report summarizes only the results of the Cropland Acreage Reduction follow-on survey. However, an analytical report is planned which will examine interrelationships between: 1) characteristics of landowners and 2) land removed from cropland and subsequent land use changes during the 1975-77 period.

The screening question in the LOS used to identify sample points whose owners had removed land from crops during the 1975-77 period was as follows:

"16. Were there any changes during 1975-76-77 in the LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES on land you own in this county? (Please check one box for each item).

.
.
.
.

B. Stop using any land for crops that was used for
crops in 1974?

	yes	no
	1	2
053	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The above screening question produced 1,523 positive responses from the 36,710 sample points in the conterminous United States on which owners provided data in the LOS. Of the 1,523 positive responses to the screening question, 1,487 were selected for the Cropland Acreage Reduction follow-on survey. Inclusion of all points with a positive response to the screening question in the follow-on sample would have been desirable. However, to minimize respondent burden, no sample point was

included in more than 3 of 8 follow-on surveys.^{2/} Sample points from the LOS that qualified for more than 3 follow-ons were randomly assigned --with known probability--to only 3. Points qualifying for multiple follow-ons were first assigned to those follow-ons with the smallest number of responses to their respective screening question. Data for the selected points were then expanded to represent all points qualifying for inclusion in the follow-on survey.

A more detailed discussion of the survey method used in the multi-part Resource Economics Survey is presented in Appendix 1 of Landownership in the United States (see 1/). This discussion also includes a description and examples of the expansion factors used in the LOS. All data presented on removal of land from crop production have been weighted, using expansion factors developed for the LOS. Use of these weights therefore provides estimates of U.S. totals for all data concerning land removed from crop production during the 1975-77 period. Before the LOS weights were utilized for the follow-on data, they were adjusted for: 1) the rate of subsampling from the positive responses to the LOS screening questions to the final follow-on sample, and 2) the non-respondents to the final follow-on sample.

Of the 1,487 points included in the Cropland Acreage Reduction follow-on sample, owners of 388 (26 percent) of the sample points responded with data concerning land taken out of crops during the 1975-77 period. (A copy of the follow-on survey questionnaire is included herein

^{2/} Selection of sample points for the Irrigation Investments and Disinvestments follow-on surveys was handled separately.

in Appendix 1.) Owners of an additional 905 (61 percent) of the sample points surveyed in this follow-on returned questionnaires indicating they had not removed land from crop production, in spite of the fact they had so indicated on the main survey screening question. There was no response to the follow-on survey for the remaining 194 (13 percent) of the sample points.

The number of respondents who indicated they had not taken land out of crops on the follow-on after indicating they had done so on the LOS screening question was quite high. One possible explanation is that the respondents interpreted the LOS screening question to include land left idle or in cropland pasture as part of a crop rotation scheme. Upon receipt of the follow-on questionnaire they may have realized their change in management practice was not what was of concern in the follow-on survey. Due to budget and time constraints there was no follow-up subsampling of either respondents answering "No" to the LOS screening questions or those responding negatively to the follow-on survey after answering "Yes" to the follow-on screening question.

Brief highlights of the principal survey findings are presented in the next section. The data are presented in the tables following the survey highlights. Table 2 through 6 contain categories for "acres over reported" and/or "acres under reported." These categories were used in an accounting sense so that each landowner's response accounted for all the land reported to have been removed from crop production in table 1. For example, acres over reported could occur if an owner reported acres in crops during the last year of production (table 2) for land double cropped. Over reporting might also occur if the owner just made an error

in distributing the total acres among alternative uses. Acres under reported indicates that the respondent did not account for all acres reported to have been removed from crop production when answering questions requiring the total acreage be allocated among categories such as land use or period of acquisition.

Except for table 6, acres over reported did not exceed 1 percent and acres under reported were 4 percent or less of the total acres removed from crop production during the 1975-77 period in any of the tables. In table 6, acres over reported specifically includes land with more than one improvement. This category includes 7 percent of the total land removed from crop production. Similarly, acres under reported specifically includes acres with no improvements for owners who reported improvements on part of the land removed from crop production during 1975-77. This category includes 15 percent of the total land removed from crop production.

Coefficients of variation were computed for selected data items presented in some of the tables. Coefficients of Variation (CV's) provide a means of evaluating survey results. Since CV's express variation as a fraction of the sample mean, the smaller the CV, the greater the reliability of the estimate. Therefore, a statistic with a CV of 10 percent is more reliable than one with a CV of 20 percent. In interpreting CV's, if an item has a CV of 10 percent, chances are 2 out of 3 that an interval constructed to represent a range from 90 to 110 percent of the survey value would contain the true population value. Chances are 19 out of 20, with a CV of 10 percent, that an interval constructed to represent a range from 80 to 120 percent of the survey value would contain the true population value.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Land Removed from Cropland, 1975-77

Land was removed from cropland in 1975 by 35 percent of the estimated 78,109 owners reporting cropland acreage reductions during the 1975-77 period. Based on the coefficient of variation for this estimate (table 1), the 95 percent confidence interval is from 54,000 to 103,000 owners removing land from crop production during the 1975-77 period. Landowners were estimated to have removed 2.8 million acres from crop production during the 1975-77 period. The 95 percent confidence interval for the estimate (based on the CV shown in table 1) would be from 2.2 million to 3.4 million acres. The land removed from crop production in 1975 accounted for 44 percent of the estimated 2.8 million acres taken out of crops during the 3-year period. Twenty-two percent of the land was taken out of crop production in 1976 and 34 percent removed in 1977 by 37 percent and 41 percent of the owners reporting cropland acreage reductions, respectively.

A total of 91 percent of the owners removed land from crop production in only one of the three years. Five percent reduced cropland acreage in two of the three years, while 4 percent of the owners reported taking land out of crop production in each year of the period.

Past, Present, and Planned Future Uses of the

Land Removed from Cropland

Hay occupied the largest acreage--more than 442,000 acres (16 percent)--of all crops reported grown during the last year of crop use on the land removed from cropland (table 2). However, corn was the prior crop reported by the largest number of owners--more than 19,000 (25 percent). Corn was the last crop use on some 11 percent of the 2.8 million acres removed from crop production during the 1975-77 period.

Some 44 percent of the owners indicated 47 percent of the land removed from crops during the 1975-77 period was in pasture, grass or range in 1978 (table 3). An additional 34 percent of the land reported by a like percentage of the owners was idle. Some 25 percent of the owners reported land in residential, commercial, industrial, or transportation uses. However, the land in these uses comprised only 4 percent of the acreage removed from cropland.^{3/} The rest of the land for which the 1978 use was reported was in forest, recreation, strip mining and other uses.

Respondents to the Cropland Acreage Reduction follow-on survey were asked if they expected the land removed from crop production in 1975-77 to be in a different use in 1980 than it was in 1978. Only 15 percent of the total owners with 14 percent of the total land removed from crop production responded. Of those owners responding, one-third estimated that 5 percent of the total acreage removed from cropland in 1975-77 would be back in crops in 1980. One-fifth of the owners reporting indicated that about 2 percent of the total land would be changed to urban uses, while another one-fifth indicated about 2 percent of the land would be put in pasture. A little more than 1 percent of the land was estimated to be in "other uses" by about one-fourth of the owners reporting an expected land use change from 1978 to 1980. Very small portions of the total land removed from crop production were estimated to be changed to

^{3/} This land represents only a portion of land being converted to urban uses during the survey period. Only land removed from crop production and converted to urban uses during the 1975-77 period is represented. Land which was converted to urban uses during the 3-year period that was removed from crop production prior to 1975 or that had never been part of the cropland base was not accounted for in this survey.

forest, recreational and idle uses between 1978 and 1980.

Due to the nature of the data, the use in 1978 of land on which the use was expected to be changed between 1978 and 1980 could not be readily determined. Such detailed information can, hopefully, be included in a later analytical report.

Period of Acquisition and Years
in Crop Production

Half of the land removed from crop production during the 1975-77 period was acquired by the owner prior to 1965 (table 4). This period of acquisition was indicated by 45 percent of the owners reporting cropland acreage reductions. An additional 25 percent of the acreage owned by 24 percent of the owners was acquired from 1965-73. Another 16 percent of the land removed from cropland had been acquired since 1973. Such recent acquisition was reported by 28 percent of the owners.

A large proportion of the land--67 percent--had been cropped for more than 10 years (table 5). These nearly 1.9 million acres were reported by 61 percent of the 78,109 owners removing land from crop production during the 1975-77 period. An additional 12 percent of the land reported by 13 percent of the owners had been in crop production from 5 to 10 years. Eight percent of the land reported by 22 percent of the owners reducing cropland acreage had been in crop production less than 5 years.

Improvements on the Land

Only 30 percent of the landowners who removed land from crop production responded to the question on improvements on the land associated

with the cropland use (table 6). These owners reported holding 48 percent of the land removed from cropland. The largest amount of land was improved by irrigation (17 percent). This was followed by drainage (7 percent), grass waterways and terracing (5 percent), and gully control structures (3 percent).

Factors Affecting the Decision to No

Longer Use the Land for Cropland

Landowners removing land from crop production indicated a number of factors important in their land use decision (table 7). The factor indicated most frequently was health or age of owner. This reason was cited by 27 percent of the owners who removed 35 percent of the land from crop production. The second most frequent factor cited was decreased availability of labor, indicated by 10 percent of the owners. These owners reported 15 percent of the land removed from crop production during the 1975-77 period.

Other specific factors indicated in decreasing order of owners reporting include: 1) loss of tenant or renter; 2) drainage problems; 3) new tillage or harvesting equipment being less suitable to use on this land; and 4) loss of irrigation water. Some 46 percent of the owners indicated factors other than those mentioned above were important in the decision to remove 47 percent of the 2.8 million acres from crop production.

Table 1--Landowners removing land from crops and amount of land removed from crop production in the conterminous United States, 1975-77, by year or combinations of years

Year or combination of years	Owners		Land removed	
	Number	Percent	Acres	Percent
1975 only	22,127	28	1,086,400	38
1976 only	23,305	30	400,700	14
1977 only	25,858	33	722,800	26
1975 and 1976	708	1	39,600	1
1975 and 1977	1,491	2	49,700	2
1976 and 1977	1,488	2	121,200	4
1975, 1976 and 1977	3,132	4	414,000	15
Total, 1975-77	78,109	100	2,834,400	100
	<u>2/</u> (15.7)		(10.4)	
Totals, by years: <u>1/</u>				
1975	27,458	35	1,250,300	44
	(20.3)		(18.9)	
1976	28,634	37	633,900	22
	(37.3)		(15.2)	
1977	31,969	41	950,200	34
	(15.7)		(14.5)	

1/ The sum of total owners, by years, who removed land from crop production exceeds the total owners reporting for the 3-year period due to some owners reporting land removed from cropland in two or more of the three years (see top portion of table above).

2/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

Table 2--Crops grown during the last year of production on land removed from crop production in the conterminous United States, 1975-77

Crop	Owners		Land removed	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Corn	19,141 <u>1</u> /(16.4)	25	308,400 (18.6)	11
All hay	14,499 (34.9)	19	442,400 (38.1)	16
Soybeans	6,700 (34.3)	9	170,900 (29.2)	6
Wheat	6,373 (19.8)	8	354,100 (20.0)	12
Other small grains	5,803 (20.2)	7	192,100 (17.8)	7
Grain sorghum	3,137 (28.0)	4	190,100 (24.0)	7
Cotton	1,056 (82.1)	1	147,100 (11.9)	5
Cultivated summer fallow	195 (88.7)	<u>3</u> /	2,800 (64.2)	<u>3</u> /
All other crops	12,283 (27.4)	16	376,300 (25.5)	13
No response	18,348 (54.0)	23	566,000 (30.1)	20
Acres under reported	764	1	108,600	4
Acres over reported	162	<u>3</u> /	-24,400	-1
Total	<u>2</u> /78,109 (15.7)	<u>2</u> /100	2,834,400 (10.4)	100

1/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

2/ The sum of number and percent of owners removing land from individual crops sum to more than the total owners reporting due to some owners reporting land removed from production in two or more of the crops during the last year of production and due to the number of owners over reporting or under reporting acres being included in other categories.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 3--Use in 1978 of land removed from crop production in the conterminous United States, 1975-77

Use in 1978	Owners		Land removed	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pasture, grass or rangeland	34,431 <u>1</u> /(16.4)	44	1,337,200 (15.1)	47
Idle	26,870 (17.6)	34	966,800 (14.1)	34
Residential, commercial industrial and transportation	19,152 (52.3)	25	111,400 (44.4)	4
Forest development	2,560 (42.7)	3	116,200 (41.3)	4
Recreation	871 (63.0)	1	16,900 (61.0)	1
Strip mining	41 <u>2</u> /	<u>4</u> /	1,600 <u>2</u> /	<u>4</u> /
Other	2,046 (38.4)	3	59,400 (46.8)	2
No response	2,144 (45.1)	3	168,900 (70.6)	6
Acres under reported	520	1	58,400	2
Acres over reported	223	<u>4</u> /	- 2,400	- <u>4</u> /
Total	<u>3</u> /78,109 (15.7)	<u>3</u> /100	2,834,400 (10.4)	100

1/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

2/ Too few observations were available to estimate a coefficient of variation for number of owners reporting strip mining use in 1978.

3/ The sum of the number and percent of owners removing land from crops sum to more than the total owners reporting removal of land from crop production due to some owners reporting land removed from cropland in two or more uses in 1978 and due to the number of owners over reporting or under reporting acres being included in other categories.

4/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

Table 4--Period of acquisition by present owner of land removed from crop production, 1975-77 in the conterminous United States

Period of acquisition	Owners		Land removed	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Before 1965	34,582	45	1,409,800	50
1965 through 1973	18,779	24	720,800	25
1974 through 1977	21,751	28	439,800	16
No response	3,336	4	225,000	8
Acres under reported	209	<u>3/</u>	39,000	1
Total	<u>1/</u> 78,109	<u>1/</u> 100	2,834,400	100
	<u>2/</u> (15.7)		(10.4)	

1/ The sum of number and percent of owners removing land from crops by period of acquisition sum to more than total owners reporting removal of land from crop production due to some owners reporting land was acquired in more than one period and due to the number of owners under reporting acres being included in another category.

2/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

Table 5--Length of time land removed from crop production, 1975-77, had been in crop production in the conterminous United States

Years in crop production	Owned		Land removed	
	Number	Percent	Acres	Percent
More than 10 years	47,468 <u>1</u> /(14.9)	61	1,896,600 (12.2)	67
From 5 to 10 years	10,477 (26.5)	13	334,800 (24.3)	12
Less than 5 years	16,872 (58.9)	22	234,200 (28.6)	8
No response	3,886 (34.0)	5	325,200 (41.4)	11
Acres under reported	201	<u>3</u> /	45,400	2
Acres over reported	229	<u>3</u> /	- 1,800	- <u>3</u> /
Total	<u>2</u> /78,109 (15.7)	<u>2</u> /100	2,834,400 (10.4)	100

1/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

2/ The sum of number and percent of owners removing land from crops by years in crop production sum to more than the total owners reporting removal of land from crop production due to some owners reporting some land was in crop production for two or more of the three periods and due to the number of owners over reporting or under reporting acres being included in other categories.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

Table 6--Improvements on land removed from crop production, 1975-77, in the conterminous United States

Improvement	:	Owners		:	Land removed	
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent
Irrigation	:	10,592	14	:	487,000	17
Grass waterways	:	5,134	7	:	146,700	5
Drainage tile or ditches	:	4,516	6	:	207,200	7
Terracing	:	4,294	5	:	128,400	5
Gully control structures	:	1,572	2	:	84,900	3
Other improvements	:	1,773	2	:	79,700	3
Acres under reported or with no improvements for owners reporting some improvement	:	6,618	8	:	443,200	15
Acres over reported or with more than one improvement	:	1,651	2	:	-208,300	-7
Total reporting improvements	:	<u>1/</u> 23,729	<u>1/</u> 30	:	1,368,800	48
No response	:	54,380	70	:	1,465,600	52
Total	:	78,109	100	:	2,834,400	100
	:	<u>2/</u> (15.7)		:	(10.4)	

1/ The sum of number and percent of owners removing land from crops by improvements reported on the land sum to more than the total owners reporting improvements on land removed from crop production due to some owners reporting more than one improvement in place on land removed from crop production and due to the number of owners over reporting or under reporting acres being included in other categories.

2/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

Table 7--Factors important in the decision to remove land from crop production, 1975-77, in the conterminous United States

Factors	Owners		Land removed	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Health or age of owner	21,183	27	997,300	35
Decreased availability of labor	7,448	10	425,400	15
Loss of tenant or renter	4,995	6	307,600	11
Drainage problems	3,944	5	105,500	4
New tillage or harvesting equipment less suitable for this land	1,854	2	204,500	7
Loss of water for irrigation	956	1	213,800	8
Salinity problems	797	1	153,900	5
Other factors	36,021	46	1,324,900	47
No response	12,621	16	226,000	8
Total <u>1/</u>	78,109	100	2,834,400	100
	<u>2/</u> (15.7)		(10.4)	

1/ The sum of owners (numbers and percent) removing land from crop production and land removed (acres and percent) sum to more than the totals of all owners reporting and acres reported removed from crop production due to some owners reporting more than one factor important in the decision to remove land from crop production.

2/ Numbers in parentheses are coefficients of variation for the estimated values immediately above.

Source: 1978 Resource Economics Survey.

APPENDIX 1



Crop
Reporting
Board

Economics, Statistics, &
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

CROPLAND ACREAGE REDUCTION SURVEY

Form Approved
O.M.B. Number 40-S-77043
Approval Expires 9-30-79

001

List Code 953

Dear Land Owner:

Your assistance is needed to provide information about cropland acreage reduction during 1975, 1976, or 1977 on land you had *either a full or part ownership interest in* on January 1, 1978 in the county shown in the address label.

The information you provide will remain confidential and will be used only in combination with other reports to develop summaries about cropland acreage reduction throughout the United States. Your response to this questionnaire is completely voluntary and not required by law.

Your returning the completed questionnaire by mail will be greatly appreciated and will help hold down survey cost. Additional contacts will be made with those not returning the questionnaire by mail to the extent possible to insure a representative sample is obtained.

Respectfully,

BRUCE M. GRAHAM, Chairman
Crop Reporting Board

Was there any of the land you own in this county taken out of crop production during 1975, 1976 or 1977?

☐ YES, Continue.

☐ NO, Please sign the last page and return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.

1. How many acres did you own on January 1, 1978 in the county shown on the address label that you stopped using for crop production during the following years? *(Do not include acreages that were in a tillage rotation during 1975, 1976 or 1977, such as summer fallow or cropland pasture):*

A. 1975	ACRES	002
B. 1976	ACRES	003
C. 1977	ACRES	004
D. Total	ACRES	005

Note: All remaining questions refer to the acreage reported in 1D *(Total acres removed from production)*

2. What was the crop (s) grown on this land during the last year of production? *(Please enter crop (s) and acreage)*

A. _____	131	ACRES	007
B. _____	132	ACRES	008
C. _____	133	ACRES	009

3. Please check all of the following factors that were important in your decision to no longer use this land for crop production.

A. Health or age of owner	087 1
B. New tillage and harvesting equipment is less suitable to this land	088 1
C. Loss of water for irrigation	089 1
D. Decreased availability of labor	090 1
E. Loss of tenant or renter	091 1
F. Decreased availability of labor	092 1
G. Salinity problems	093 1
H. Drainage problems	094 1
I. Other (Specify _____)	095 1

4. How many years had this land been in crop production? (Please enter acres)

A. Less than 5 years	ACRES	110
B. 5 to 10 years	ACRES	111
C. More than 10 years	ACRES	112

5. When did you purchase or acquire the land taken out of agricultural production? (Please enter acres)

A. January 1, 1974 to January 1, 1978	ACRES	113
B. 1965-1973	ACRES	114
C. Before 1965	ACRES	115

6. Please list the acres of this former cropland which had been improved in the following ways.
(Enter zero (0) if no acres had improvement)

A. Irrigation ...	ACRES	101
B. Drainage tile or ditches	ACRES	102
C. Terracing	ACRES	103
D. Gully control structures	ACRES	104
E. Grass waterways	ACRES	105
F. Other (Specify _____)	ACRES	106

7. How many acres of this former cropland are now in the following use?

USE IN 1978

A. Forest development	ACRES	120
B. Pasture, grass, or rangeland	ACRES	121
C. Recreation	ACRES	122
D. Idle	ACRES	123
E. Residential, commercial, industrial and transportation	ACRES	124
F. Strip mining	ACRES	125
G. Other (Specify use _____)	134	126

8. If you expect this land to be in a different use in 1980, please list the new use and the acreage involved.

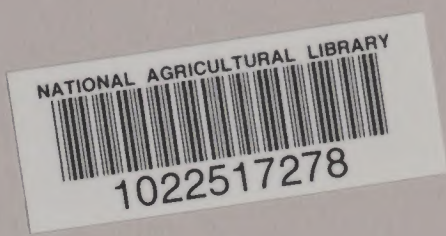
NEW 1980 USE

A. _____	135 ACRES	127
B. _____	136 ACRES	128
C. _____	137 ACRES	129
D. _____	138 ACRES	130

Reported by _____ Date _____

Telephone Number ()
Area Code _____

The enclosed envelope does not require a stamp



* NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



1022517278